THE FIFTH DAY.

Saturday, the 8th March 1930.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A.M. on Saturday, the 8th March 1930, the Dewan presiding.

61. General needs of the Municipalities in the State.

MR. S. R. SABARIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Shencotta*) first spoke about the need for amending the Municipal Regulation and the Rules passed thereunder, particularly the provisions relating to elections. The rules relating to polling at Municipal elections, especially those relating to the recording of votes of illiterate and blind voters, were unsatisfactory. There was no provision for checking the vagaries of certain polling officers. The rules regarding the election of Presidents were defective in that they enabled a President to continue in office without interruption. The rules required thorough and prompt revision.

The records relating to landed properties situated within municipal limits were inaccurate and unsatisfactory. The resurvey of municipal towns and the preparation of correct land records were therefore an imperative need.

The divided control exercised by the Municipal Councils, the P. W. and the Revenue Departments over *poramboke* lands led to difficult situations. The rights of the Councils and the Departments in respect of *porambokes* should be more clearly defined.

A town-planning scheme for each municipal town should be prepared with special reference to local conditions so as to ensure efficient sanitation.

It was not fair to credit the value of court fee stamps on petitions, etc., presented to Municipal Councils in favour of the Government, especially when the Municipalities were not supplied with Anchal service stamps or stationery articles by the Government. The court fee levied must be dispensed with or credited to the funds of the Municipality concerned. If that could not be done, arrangements should be made for treating the municipal offices just like government offices in the matter of supply of Anchal service stamps and stationery articles.

A Municipal Manual with clear provisions as to the method of keeping municipal accounts should be compiled at an early date. A special officer had been appointed for the purpose and he should be asked to expedite the work.

Government were supplying lymph free of cost for vaccinating persons living outside municipal towns but were charging the Municipalities for the lymph supplied to them. That was not fair, specially when the Municipalities were not making any distinction between residents of municipal towns and others for purposes of vaccination.

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The control over travellers' bungalows and campsheds should be transferred to Municipal Councils. Such a step would enhance the usefulness of the buildings.

In the interests of proper sanitation and storage of water in times of drought, it was necessary to place the tanks within municipal limits under the control of the Councils. The existing arrangement in regard to the control of tanks was fraught with difficulties, as would be seen from the correspondence ending with G. O. Dis. No. 510/29/ Ml., dated 7-11-1929. The control might be exercised without prejudice to the irrigation rights of third persons.

The need for a Medical Registration Regulation had been felt by the Government as could be seen from the reply given to his representation made in 1927 on the same subject. The matter had been under the consideration of Government for three years and its disposal should be expedited.

With the discontinuance of the Government grant to most of the Municipalities, their resources had become inadequate to meet the pensionary contribution on account of their staff. The Municipalities should therefore be exempted from making the payment and if it could not be done, they should be given the option of paying the pension of the Municipal staff themselves.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sabaripérumal Pillai, I am glad to note that you have presented your representation in a most business like manner without taking more time than was absolutely required for the clear statement of your case.

With regard to the first point, *viz.*, municipal elections, as you yourself said, it may be seen from my replies to other representations that there is a bill under consideration for the amendment of the Municipal Regulation.

I shall order an enquiry to be made, with regard to the re-survey of Municipal towns and the vesting of *porambokes*. You say that the control of *porambokes* is now vested in three different agencies, *viz.*, the P. W. Department, the Land Revenue Department and the Municipal Council. There *may* occur cases where these different agencies may come into conflict with each other. But as a general rule, your request that the control over *porambokes* should be vested in the Municipalities cannot be accepted by the Government.

Then with regard to the town-planning scheme, I may say that it is a matter in which the Municipality should take action. The Municipality should obviously formulate a scheme for the purpose and send it up to the Government when they will consider it.

You suggested that the value of court fee stamps on petitions presented to the Council should be credited to the Municipality. That is a matter which has already engaged the attention of Government in the past and they then decided that Municipalities are not entitled to claim such revenue particularly as the Municipal Regulation defining and enumerating the sources of the Municipal Fund does not mention this item. Your suggestions with respect to the question are noted.

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The compilation of a Municipal Manual has been begun and Government expect that it will be completed before long.

You ask for the free supply of lymph. The cost of lymph is very small; and under the Municipal Regulation it is the duty of the Municipalities to make provision for and maintain an adequate supply of lymph. The Councils are able to bear the burden of this small cost.

Regarding the transfer of control over travellers' bungalows, campsheds and rest houses, Government cannot accept your views.

From the G. O. that you quoted, it will be clear that, wherever there is real necessity for the Municipality to use tanks, Government are prepared to look into the question of transferring them under their control, so that I do not think there is any need for a general amendment as proposed.

The enactment of a Medical Registration Regulation is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Government.

As regards pensionary contributions, I may point out that, under the Municipal Regulation, you are bound to contribute towards the pension of any officer lent to the Municipality. In these circumstances, Government cannot accept your proposition.

With regard to the last point that you raised, I myself have no information. But I will consider your suggestions.

62. Local Self-Government in Travancore.

MR. V. CHACKO ABRAHAM (*Municipal Council, Kottayam*) spoke about the need for enhancing the activities of local self-government in the State. Local self-government in the State began in 1070 when the T. I. C. Regulation was passed and T. I. C's were constituted in the major towns. That Regulation was superseded by the Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, and Municipalities were created. But no rules for the proper working of the Regulation were passed. Model bye-laws were however issued under certain sections of the Regulation and the several Municipalities were functioning with varying degrees of success. In some Councils, the Presidents were not sufficiently educated or active so that their work was more or less shaped by the Municipal subordinates. Some of the members of some Councils were not men of status or education who could shoulder the responsibilities attached to their office. Due to the above and other causes, the working of the Municipalities had not attained that extent of efficiency that was desirable. The Secretariat could not adequately co-ordinate the work of the 19 Municipal Councils in the State. There was also lack of co-operation on the part of the Government in matters of municipal administration. Disputes between Municipal Councils and departmental heads were invariably decided in favour of the latter. It was therefore highly necessary to appoint an officer to supervise and control the work of the Councils and advise Government on municipal matters. In British India there was an I. C. S. officer to control municipal administration, besides an Inspector of Municipalities. The Village Panchayat Regulation was passed in 1100 with a view to educate the rural population in self-government. But the object was

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